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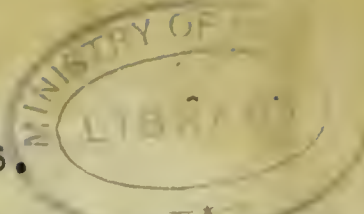
EDEYRNION RURAL DISTRICT.

The Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer
of Health,
≡ For the Year 1925. ≡

Printed and Published by W. H. Scattergood, " Adsain " Office, Corwen.

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June 25th, 1926.



Supplement to the Annual Report of the M.O.H. to the Edeyrnion Rural District Council for the Year ending the 31st day of December 1925.

1. Meat Inspection.

All the meat vendors have been instructed to carry out the requirements of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924. The meat is properly protected from contamination, and the premises and the vans which are efficiently covered are periodically inspected.

2. Milk Supply.

The quality of the milk sold throughout the district is quite satisfactory, all the milk sold being delivered from covered cans. There are no milk-shops in the district, and no pasteurised or graded milk is sold. Every purveyor of milk is registered with the Council, and the cow-sheds and dairies are periodically inspected. Two cows with suspected tubercular udders were reported to the County Veterinary Surgeon, and upon examination were found to be negative.

The police, acting under the instructions of the Chief Constable of the County are responsible for taking samples of ordinary milk in course of delivery.

3. Unsound food.

No cases were reported under any of the various Food and Drugs Acts.

4. Housing Inspection.

(a) Number of preliminary or informal notices served in respect of nuisances or structural defects... 5

(b) Number of Statutory Notices. ... Nil

(c) Number of Preliminary Notices complied with ... 4

(See Housing Statistics in the Annual Report).

(Sgd.) D.R. EDWARDS.

M.O.H.

EDEYRNION RURAL DISTRICT.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Area of District in Acres	...	...	43,449
Population of District, Census 1921...	...	...	4,773
Estimated Population, June, 1925	...	...	4,965
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	16.9
Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	17.3
Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 births	...	...	83.3
Tuberculosis Death rate	...	...	0.8
Maternal Death rate per 1,000 births	...	...	11.9

To the Chairman and Councillors of Edeyrnion Rural District Council, County of Merioneth.

I beg to submit to you my Report on the Health Condition of the District for the year 1925. The area of the district in acres is 43,449, with a population, Census 1921, of 4,773; the estimated population as in June, 1925, being 4,965. It is comprised of six Parishes, including one Public Institution, as in former years. Situated in the valley of the River Dee, which runs from West to East, it is bounded on the South by the Berwyn range of mountains, the highest peak of which reaches an altitude of 2,500 feet. Though socially mainly agricultural, it possesses four quarries, the work in which is not of an injurious or dangerous nature, though two employ underground workmen. The number of inhabited houses is 1,249, while the number of families or separate occupiers is 1,269. The rateable value is £33,735, and a penny rate produces £99.

Poor-Law relief granted does not vary to any appreciable extent. For the year ended 25th March, 1920, relief to the amount of £559 was paid to a rate of $\frac{2}{3}$ per head of the population of the district at the last census. For the year ended 25th March last a sum of approximately £675 was paid, equivalent to a rate of $\frac{2}{8}$ per head. This is accounted for by increases in the cost of living, and by relief being paid in calls where families are not covered by Unemployment benefit. There has been a large amount of unemployment in the district during the period covered by the last figure stated.

Hospital accommodation of the district is nil, but hospital relief is obtained from the neighbouring towns and the big cities outside the district, the Poor-Law Guardians subscribing to such hospitals and Infirmarys, as well as to Convalescent Homes.

Vital Statistics.

Births registered as belonging to the district was 84—40 males, 44 females. Legitimate births—38 males, 40 females. Illegitimate births—2 males, 4 females. The Birth rate is 16.9. The Birth rate for England and Wales being 18.3.

The total deaths registered were 91. Nine deaths were those of non-residents, eight of which occurred in the Corwen Institution. Four residents died outside your area, giving the nett number of deaths, 86—43 males, 43 females, and a death rate of 17.4.

Infant Mortality.—This term signifies the number of deaths among children under one year of age to every 1,000 births registered in the same year in the same area. Seven deaths were recorded, the mortality rate being 83.3.

Zymotic Diseases.—One child died of whooping cough and its complications.

Maternal Death Rate.—From Sepsis, nil; from other causes, 11.9.

In reviewing the causes of death, I find 8 deaths are due to cancer or malignant disease—1 male, 7 females. I have pointed out in previous reports that the liability to malignant disease is not an attribute of any particular social class, profession or occupation.

Tuberculosis is responsible for 4 deaths of the Pulmonary type—2 males, 2 females,

Deaths classified according to age :—

Deaths under 1 year	...	...	...	7
„ 1 year and under 2 years	...	...	...	1
„ 2 years	„ 5	„	...	2
„ 5	„ 15	„	...	—
„ 15	„ 25	„	...	2
„ 25	„ 45	„	...	4
„ 45	„ 65	„	...	16
„ 65	„ and upwards	...	...	54
				—
Total				86

Seventeen deaths are recorded of residents over 80 years of age.

In a survey of the last 5 years, I find that neither the Birth nor Death rate vary very considerably. The highest Birth rate was recorded in 1921, being 24.7 per 1,000. The lowest Death rate was in 1924 and 1926, viz., 14.3. The Infantile Mortality rate, in being surveyed, invariably shows a high rate in the first month of life. In 1925, 3 deaths are notified, due to premature birth, occurring a few hours after birth. It was obvious that any measures designed to lessen this high first month rate must be applied before the birth of the child, which simply means Aute Natal work. Occasionally we have in our midst a Maternal mortality. One case of death was this year notified as due to Eclampsia. This is the type of mortality which can only be remedied by an Aute Natal Visiting Scheme.

Three violent deaths occurred in the course of the year.

General Provisions of Health Service in the Area.

No Hospitals are provided by the Local Authority. In the case of Tuberculosis, the County Council is one of the Authorities of the King Edward VII. Welsh National Memorial Association, and this body undertakes the treatment of all cases in the County, rendering facilities for the whole population, insured, dependent and non-insured. The Tuberculosis Physician visits the town of Corwen twice a month. The Hospitals for Tuberculosis are the Hospitals of the Welsh National Memorial.

Maternity, Fever, Small Pox, Cottage Hospital, Children's Hospital—no provision.

Ambulance Facilities.—No provision for either Infectious or Non-infectious cases.

The only institutional provision for unmarried mothers is the Corwen Workhouse.

For Homeless Children.—The district is provided with the Children's Home in the town of Corwen.

School Clinics are provided by the County Council for the operative treatment of Adenoids and Tonsils, and for examination of Defective Vision.

The district is without a Maternity Centre, but a Child Welfare Centre meets once a month, and is attended by the Medical Officer and the District Nurse.

Nursing Arrangements.—Nursing in the home is provided by two District Nursing Associations, to which the Poor Law Guardians subscribe annually, but no arrangement exists for nursing of infectious disease.

Venereal Disease.—Treatment Centre in the Carnarvonshire and Anglesea Infirmary.

Midwives are under the supervision of the County Council.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER SUPPLIES.—The town of Corwen and the villages of Glyndyfrdwy, Llandrillo, Carrog and Cynwyd are provided with service supplies. The village of Gwyddelwern is partly provided with a service supply.

Corwen.—The supply to the town is derived from a stream, and collected in an uncovered reservoir. It is reliable during the wet seasons, but a short period of drought very readily curtails it. In a survey of the last 5 years, I may say that there is at present a storage reservoir in course of construction at the source, and when completed will allow of a plentiful supply at all times. New service pipes have also been laid in certain parts of the town.

Glyndyfrdwy.—This village has two separate supplies, one for the higher and lower portion of the village, which are always abundant. Certain minor repairs have been executed, viz., laying of new service pipes and the fixing of new fittings.

Carrog.—For this village the supply is from various springs, some of which are easily affected by a period of drought. Until recently, the water was gathered through field earthenware pipes, but it was found necessary to substitute these for glazed earthenware pipes, to convey the water to the tank. To the service reservoir the water is now conveyed by Mannesam steel pipes instead of by earthenware pipes. Owing to difficulties in acquiring the necessary land, the construction of a storage reservoir at the junction of all the supplies to the main supply pipe had to be abandoned.

Llandrillo.—Here the supply is unreliable owing to corrosion of service mains laid 35 years ago, and also owing to increased consumption through the increase in the number of houses and the installation of modern sanitary conveniences. It is intended to extend the service reservoir.

Cynwyd.—Until the beginning of 1925 the village of Cynwyd had no service supply, the only source being an open well which was always liable to contamination. The present supply is from a spring at Felin Ucha. The water has a plumto-solvent action, so that all houses with lead service pipes for connections are tin-lined. The scheme was prepared by the Surveyor of the Council.

Gwyddelwern.—A public well provided the supply. Some of the houses and buildings have service supplies. A stand pipe and service tap has recently been installed in a central position, from which most of the houses without a service supply drew water.

Cynfal.—The water in this village is drawn by means of a hand pump, and it is anticipated to provide a supply from a different source, if after analysis and gauging it is found practicable.

Bettws G.G.—Here again the supply is from a well, which is conveyed by iron pipes laid 5 years ago. The supply is **always** plentiful, but the well is dilapidated.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—No complaints are made regarding pollution. Signs are erected forbidding the deposition of any refuse into the river and streams.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—The town of Corwen has an efficient drainage system, practically every house having a modern drainage system discharging into the sewer. Every house is provided with a water-closet. Many of the branch sewers were reconstructed during the past five years, and inspection chambers installed at suitable distances for the purpose of inspection and removal of any obstruction. Some of the main sewers have very little fall, and cannot be improved, but with periodical removal of solid matter they work satisfactorily. On one branch sewers an automatic flushing tank will be installed. Earth-closets are in use in most of the houses outside the villages. The houses outside the town and villages provided with modern sanitary conveniences have efficient drainage system, discharging into cesspools or septic tanks, which are periodically emptied. Most of the villages have public sewers, and some were constructed or reconstructed during the last few years.

SCAVENGING.—The system of Scavenging in the town of Corwen is satisfactory, the refuse being collected once a week, and a suitable spot has been acquired for its tipping. In most of the villages the method is carried out once a month, and has been in existence in some but not all for a few years. Carrog is still unprovided.

SCHOOLS.—The sanitary state of the Schools is good. The schools at Corwen, Llandrillo, Cynwyd, Gwyddelwern, Carrog and Glyndyfrdwy have service water supplies; all have also water closets except Cynwyd. The schools of Bettws, Cynfal and Plas Adda are without water supplies.

Housing.

The Housing condition of the district is very unsatisfactory. About 25 houses are occupied in a condemned area of the town of Corwen. Several other unfit houses are occupied owing to the inability of the occupiers to find suitable houses. Most of these houses cannot be made habitable until they are vacated.

The Extent of the Shortage of Houses.—About 70 to 80 new houses are required throughout the district in order to improve the housing condition. The Council, in view of the shortage, has decided to proceed with a Housing Scheme under the 1923 and 1924 Housing Acts, commencing with the erection of 12 houses at Corwen and 10 in the parish of Gwyddelwern, and to increase the number later.

Overcrowding Extents.—Overcrowding is prevalent, especially in Corwen, and in some of the villages. Many houses with one or two sleeping rooms are occupied by families of six. To abate overcrowding, about 25 new houses would be necessary. The main cause of overcrowding is inability to obtain a bigger house; conditions have changed, and the families have increased in number. No measures can be taken to meet the shortage until new houses are provided. Several notices and orders have been served upon owners and occupiers of overcrowded houses during the past five years requiring the abatement of the nuisances, but, owing to inability to find alternative and suitable accommodation, the Council has been unable to take any further measures. No particular cases were reported in the last 12 months.

Fitness of Houses.—The general standard of houses throughout the district is on the whole very fair, although, as already stated, some houses, although unfit are occupied, and cannot be repaired until vacated. The general character of defect is due generally to dampness, general dilapidation, lack of ventilation and light. The defects are due usually to lack of supervision and management by owners, especially large estate owners, who have been very neglectful of their properties. This may be due to the high cost of materials and labour. A tenant is rarely responsible for dilapidation, more often he renders the only repairs that are executed. I apply these remarks mostly to farm houses, owners of ordinary dwelling houses are on the whole attentive to their property.

General Action taken as regards Unfit Houses under the Public Health Acts.—The custom is, whenever any house is found to be unfit or requires repairs, for the Inspector to point out same to owner, and arrange an interview on the site. In other instances notices are served under these Acts.

The Housing Acts.—No actions were taken during the past year, but several notices have been served during the last five years under the 1919 Housing Act. Most of these have been complied with, the exception being the largest estate owners. The difficulties experienced are greatest with owners of big estates, especially farm houses and workmen's dwellings. There are many such houses in the district which are still out of repair, although notices were served upon the owners under the 1919 Housing Act.

Conditions so far as they affect Housing as regards Water Supply, etc.—The water supply, closet accommodation and refuse disposal do not to a very great extent affect the housing condition of the district. There may, however, be instances where the wholesomeness of the water supply may be suspicious, especially farm houses supply, where the conditions and nature of the soil is liable to pollute the water. Every house in the district is provided with some type of closet accommodation. The refuse disposal, as before noted under Scavenging, is carried out in every village, and outside the villages it is deposited on farm and.

Unhealthy Areas.—A terrace comprising 8 back-to-back houses, the only back-to-back houses in the district, situated in the village of Llandrillo, are being reconstructed and converted into four dwelling houses, each house provided with a back door and also new windows. A terrace of four houses in the town of Corwen, in an unhealthy area, were demolished during the past year. Reference has already been made to another unhealthy area in the town of Corwen. This is a congested area; no action can be taken until alternative accommodation is provided.

Byelaws relating to Houses.—The Council's Byelaws deal with : (1) The cleansing of footways and pavements, removal of house refuse, cleansing of earth closets, privies, ashpits and cesspools; (2) Nuisances; (3) Common Lodging Houses; (4) New Buildings. The laws were prepared and approved by the Local Government Board in 1904.

Housing Statistics for the Year 1925.

Number of New Houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under b)..... 2

(b) With State Assistance under the Housing Acts :

(1) By Local Authority Nil,

(2) By Other Bodies or Persons..... Nil.

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses.

(1) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for Housing Defects 25

(2) Number of Houses inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 5

(3) Number found in a state so injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation..... 2

(4) Number (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation..... 12

2. Remedy of Defects without service of Formal Notices.

Number of Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Sanitary Inspector..... 12

3. No Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

No Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.

No Proceedings under Section 11, 14, 15, of the Housing Act, 1926.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply—Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.—There are 12 Registered Producers and Purveyors of Milk, 1 Registered Producer and 1 Registered Purveyor in the district. The premises are inspected periodically. Notices were served in respect of three premises—two for necessary structural improvements, and one for whitewashing of walls.

Meat—Slaughter Houses.—Thirteen registered Slaughter Houses, which are private, exist. Two new Slaughter Houses were built in the year. They are periodically inspected.

Bakehouses.—Nine Bakehouses are found—seven in Corwen, one in Glyndyfrdwy, one in Cynwyd. These are also inspected, and sanitary defects when found are immediately complied with.

Prevalence of and Control on Infectious Disease.

The number of Infectious Diseases notified during the year was as follows : Scarlet Fever, 28; Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 7.

Scarlet Fever.—5 cases were notified in the first quarter of the year from the parish of Llandrillo. Investigation proved the infection to have been conveyed by visitors from one of the big cities of England. In the last quarter of the year, 23 notifications were received. The fever was prevalent in a village outside the district, and was in the first instance found in Gwyddelwern. Of a very mild type, the parents in many instances found the skin peeling, and they consulted their family doctor. Cases were notified also in Corwen and Carrog. All the precautions were taken, but isolation in the true sense of the word was in most instances impossible, and the need of an Isolation Hospital was again brought forcibly home to us.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—7 notifications—3 males and 4 females. No use has been made of the tests known as the Schick and Dick Tests in Diphtheria or Scarlet Fever, or of the recently developed artificial methods of immunization against these diseases; nor are there any arrangements for the examination of pathological and bacteriological specimens.

Vaccination.—According to the last return of Vaccination, out of 101 births registered in the district, 85 were successfully vaccinated, equalling 85 per cent, the remainder having either died, removed from the district, or parents having a conscientious objection to vaccination. 8 Certificates of conscientious objection were received in 1925.

No special facilities are available for cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons and their belongings. 10 homes were disinfected. The rooms are disinfected and distempered. Rooms are sprayed, sealed and fumigated.

Factory and Workshops Act.

These places, which come under the Act, are visited periodically.

D. R. EDWARDS,

Medical Officer of Health.

Corwen,

May 20th, 1926.